the House on 26.2.99, there are 28 Central Public Sector Undertakings (having Registered Offices) in Maharashtra, out of which 20 have earned profits and 8 incurred losses during 1997-98.

(d) Improving the performance of PSUs is a continuous process and enterprise specific. Administrative Ministries/ Departments- in consultation with the management and workers of the units explore various options and devise appropriate measures to improve profitability of loss making enterprises. However, some of the measures taken are financial and business restructuring including joint ventures, technology upgradation, modernisation of plants, diversification, revised marketing strategies, inventory and cost control, rationalisation of manpower, etc.

Import of Tea from Neighbouring Countries

*278. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of tea from neighbouring foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic tea industry is likely to face adverse effect on the import of tea from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to provide concessions to domestic tea industry to face any challenge?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (e) The Government has allowed import of 2307 items including Tea under OGL from SAARC Nations vide Public Notice No. 25 (RE-98)/97-02 dated 01.08.1998. This Public Notice allows import without any import licence and does not provide for any tariff concessions.

The Basic Customs Duty for the year 1998-99 on Tea was 10% which in the current Budget proposals has been raised to 15%. The basic duty along with 10% surcharge on basic duty, the Additional Customs Duty in lieu of Central Excise as well as the Special Additional Customs Duty provide adequate cover to the domestic Tea Industry.

Public Sector Undertakings functioning in the country

*279. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Sector Undertakings functioning in the country with details thereof;

(b) whether bodies like SAIL, MMTC, Tea Board and Coffee board are included in the list of PSUs;

(c) whether these PSUs and Public bodies have ever paid donation to Trusts or Foundations formed in the memory of great Indian leaders who have passed away; and

(d) if so, the names of PSUs, along with the names of the Trusts/Foundations to which the amount was donated and quantum of donation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) As on 31st March, 1998, there were 236 Central Public Sector Undertakings functioning in the country, a list of which is given in the statement. *(See below)*

(b) While bodies like SAIL and MMTC are included in the list of PSUs, Tea Board and Coffee Board are autonomous bodies and are not included in the list of CPSUs.

(c) and (d) Donations to any Trust or Foundation by Public Sector Undertakings fall within the purview of the respective managements.